Improving the performance of Indian hockey team

2034. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh initiatives are being taken to improve the performance of the Indian hockey team which is deteriorating with passing years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Sports figures in the 'State List' of the Constitution of India and as such, promotion of sports at grass root level is the responsibility of the State Governments and the concerned National Sports Federation. Accordingly, the promotion of Hockey in the country is the responsibility of Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) and Indian Women Hockey Federation (IWHF). However, the Government of India, is already supplementing their efforts in promotion of sports in the country by providing financial assistance for training and participation in international tournaments abroad, holding national/international tournaments in India, training/coaching of national teams under foreign and Indian coaches, procurement of equipment etc. Financial assistance released to these Federations was Rs. 105.27 lakhs in 2002-03, Rs. 159.65 lakhs in 2003-04 and Rs. 304.55 lakhs in 2004-05, indicating significant increase in government support.

Apart from above, hockey is one of the identified sports disciplines for assistance under the following schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI), for its promotion at various levels:

(i) National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC)

(ii) Army Boys Sports Company Scheme (ABSC)

(iii) SAI Training Centres Scheme (STC)

(iv) Special Area Games Scheme (SAG)

(v) Centre of Excellence (COX)